

OWN OUR FUTURE



JUSTICE: BACKGROUNDER

Labour believes that our system of justice should be open, fair, swift, and accessible. It should enhance public safety, protect liberty, and encourage participation and accountability.

National has been tinkering around the edges of our Justice system, taking a reactive approach to justice policy based on ideology rather than evidence. The last term saw inappropriate use of Parliamentary and Select Committee processes, and the passage of legislation which restricts the public's access to justice and therefore increases the probability of greater miscarriages of justice.

Labour's approach to justice issues will be based on evidence and it will address the causes of injustice, not merely their symptoms, and be enacted openly and only after consultation.

It is important that the foundations on which our justice system are strong and Labour's policy will address the fundamental changes that are necessary to a stable and fair justice system.

Our policy supports:

- Modernising the Constitution
- Making the Electoral System Fairer
- Improving the Quality of the Work of the House of Representatives
- Protecting Liberty
- Enhancing Accountability
- Affirming Equality
- Requiring Evidence-Based Law-making

Our justice policy goes hand in hand with our police and corrections policy. Labour is committed to preventing crime, helping victims, supporting those who genuinely want to turn their lives around, and enhancing public safety.

Providing access to justice, ensuring that we have a stable electoral system, eliminating abuse of Parliamentary procedures, guaranteeing equal rights for all and taking evidence-based rather than an ideological approach to justice policy is what New Zealanders expect from their Government, and Labour will deliver that.